

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NOS. 2000-442-C & 2000-443-C - ORDER NO. 2001-058

JANUARY 18, 2001

IN RE: Docket No. 2000-442-C – Joint Application of)	ORDER ✓
The Furst Group, Inc. and Zone Telecom, Inc.)	CONSOLIDATING
for Approval of the Transfer of Selected Assets,)	DOCKETS FOR
Including Customers, from The Furst Group,)	HEARING
Inc. to Zone Telecom, Inc.)	PURPOSES
)	
AND)	
)	
Docket No. 2000-443-C – Application of Zone)	
Telecom, Inc. for a Certificate of Public)	
Convenience and Necessity to Provide Facilities-)	
Based and Resold Intrastate Interexchange and)	
Private Line Telecommunications Services)	
within the State of South Carolina.)	

This matter comes before the South Carolina Public Service Commission (the "Commission") by way of a request from The Furst Group, Inc. and Zone Telecom, Inc. for the Commission to consolidate dockets for hearing purposes in Docket Numbers 2000-442-C and 2000-443-C. On December 19, 2000, The Furst Group, Inc. and Zone Telecom, Inc., by letter, requested that the hearings on its two applications pending before the Commission be consolidated and heard during one hearing.

On August 24, 2000, Zone Telecom, Inc. ("Zone") filed its application for authority to provide facilities-based and resold interexchange telecommunications services in the State of South Carolina ("Application for Authority"). Concurrently, Zone

and The Furst Group, Inc. (TFG") filed a joint application for authority to transfer selected assets, including customers, from TFG to Zone ("Transfer Application"). At the time of these filings, Zone requested that the Transfer Application and the Application for Authority be processed and granted concurrently to ensure that the transition from TFG to Zone be transparent to customers.

The Commission finds that the applications of The Furst Group, Inc. and Zone Telecom, Inc. should be consolidated and heard on the same date. We believe that the consolidation of these two applications will prevent the need for two hearings and will reduce expenses related to the proceeding for the Applicant and the Commission. Finally, we do not believe that any party will be prejudiced by the consolidation of these applications into one hearing.


IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Furst Group, Inc. and Zone Telecom, Inc.'s applications in Docket Numbers 2000-442-C and 2000-443-C shall be consolidated and scheduled for a hearing.
2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)